

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

<name ###-###-####>

<xxxxx@email.xxx>

<name> Library now offers Kentucky's Statewide Virtual Library

(City, state, date)—The Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library (KCVL) is now available at the <name> Library, providing comprehensive information resources and services to support the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University (KCVU) and to support the lifelong learning for all Kentuckians.

Beginning November 1, 1999, library users have access to online information resources, either housed in Kentucky libraries or accessible via the Internet, through a “one-stop shopping” gateway.

The KCVL Web site (<http://www.kcvl.org>) offers a common look and feel for information seekers and provides access to the online public access catalogs of the eight public universities and 28 community and technical colleges in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), along with other Kentucky libraries. This access allows users to find out the holdings of each library and to have materials delivered to the library near them.

There are 32 databases available to the statewide audience including 16 databases from OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., 15 databases from EBSCO Information Services, and the online Encyclopedia Britannica. They contain full text from close to 5,000 journals, magazines, newspapers, newswires, and reference books, as well as indexes and abstracts to both scholarly and general interest content.

The KCVL Web site also offers access to a unique Kentuckiana collection; state and federal government information resources organized by subjects and annotated by librarians; an “anytime, anywhere” tutorial to help students and citizens tap into the riches on the Web by showing them step-by-step what the Web resources are, how to search and assess them, and how to use them responsibly; and a Virtual Reference Desk, built as a gateway to non-governmental Web resources that are of value to Kentuckians in general.

<Space for library to add information on how and where the KCVL Web site is available—

from home, from specific terminals in the library, which branches, etc., as appropriate. >

<Information about the library.>

The KCVL is built on a long tradition of cooperation and collaboration among all types of libraries through the Kentucky Library Network (KLN), a resource sharing membership organization established in 1985. Even with this existing structure, it still took the 100-plus KCVL committee members more than a year and a half to plan and implement this project.

As one of his initiatives to improve higher education in Kentucky, Governor Paul Patton and the 1997 Legislature provided funding for the “anytime, anywhere” access to postsecondary education opportunities and to information resources and services needed to support such an endeavor. The recognition that the library is an essential building block in developing the KCVU makes KCVL stand out amid other statewide virtual library initiatives in the South, such as, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Virginia.